

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 781

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and commend the B'Nai Sholom
Congregation of Blountville, Tennessee, upon
the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the Tennessee General Assembly pay tribute to those religious institutions that have provided comfort, respite, refuge, and direction for many generations of members; their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock characteristic upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to recognize those communities of faith that are celebrating important milestones in their communal life; and

WHEREAS, Congregation B'Nai Sholom, which means "sons of peace", represents one such long-standing institution, celebrating the impressive One Hundredth Anniversary of the congregation's founding this year; and

WHEREAS, first providing public worship services in 1904, congregation B'Nai Sholom continues to serve a diverse constituency of Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews in the tri-county area of Bristol, Kingsport, and Johnson City; and

WHEREAS, the only organized body of the Jewish faith for miles, the Congregation attracts members from Virginia and North Carolina, as well as Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1958, Congregation B'Nai Sholom moved its synagogue from Bristol to Blountville in order to provide a more centralized location for its members; the synagogue remains in Blountville today; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the changing needs of its congregation with the passage of time, B'Nai Sholom Congregation has undergone various changes in liturgy and other practices; and

WHEREAS, this history of the congregation is tribute and testimony to the dedication of its members to the Jewish faith and ideals; the composition of members may have changed through the years, but throughout this natural change, the congregation has maintained its unity through its faith and Jewish heritage; and

WHEREAS, in preserving their Jewish identity, Congregation B'Nai Sholom has enriched the communities that it touches with a tradition that embraces the new, yet revels in the old; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate the rabbi and members of Congregation B'Nai Sholom on the occasion of their celebration of 100 years as a community of faith and offer our best wishes for many years of continued success in serving God and humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.